

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 08430 251909Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 8430

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LIMDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ, US
SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS OF 445TH PRC MEETING, NOVEMBER 23

1. TREATY INFORMATION SERVICE: RAISING A SUGGESTION
MADE BY SEN. RIEGLE DURING THE CODEL BYRD VISIT, AMBAS-
SADOR ASKED PRC TO CONSIDER FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING
AN INTER-AGENCY COORDINATING MECHANISM TO ANSWER TREATY-
RELATED QUESTIONS FROM CZ RESIDENTS AND OTHERS. GOVERNOR
COMMENTED PANCANAL ALREADY HAS SUCH A SERVICE BUT MANY
QUESTIONS BEING ASKED CONCERN CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT,
EARLY RETIREMENT, OR SIMILAR QUESTIONS WHICH CANNOT BE
ANSWERED LOCALLY BECAUSE THEY DEPEND ON WASHINGTON
DECISIONS OR LEGISLATION STILL TO BE INITIATED. CINC
SAID WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE TRI-PARTITE GROUP (EMBASSY,
PANCANAL, SOUTHCOM) TO COORDINATE REPLIES WHERE SUBJECT
MATTER IS OF INTEREST TO MORE THAN ONE AGENCY. IT WAS
DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A 3-MAN TREATY SUBCOMMITTEE WHICH WOULD
BE CHARGED WITH PROVIDING ADVICE TO PRC'S INFORMATION SUB-
COMMITTEE WHO DISSEMINATE THE ANSWERS. TREATY SUBGROUP
WILL BE ASKED TO SUBMIT DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE TO PRC
AND SENATOR RIEGLE WILL BE ADVISED OF PRC'S ACTION.

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2. EARLY RETIREMENT DISCUSSIONS: GOVERNOR SUMMARIZED
ARMY DEPUTY ASST. SECRETARY BLUMENFELD'S DISCUSSIONS WITH
CZ LABOR LEADERS ON PROPOSED EARLY RETIREMENT LEGISLATION.
HE REPORTED THAT UNFAVORABLE REACTION TO PROPOSAL WAS
STRONGER THAN ANTICIPATED, SAYING UNION REPRESENTATIVES
DO NOT PERCEIVE THE PROPOSAL AS RESPONSIVE TO THEIR EX-

PECTATIONS UNDER ARTICLE X OF THE TREATY.

3. VISIT OF SECARMY: GOVERNOR SAID THAT ARMY SECRETARY ALEXANDER WILL VISIT THE ISTHMUS DEC. 13-16 AND WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MESSRS. JOSE ARAGON AND LONDON BUTLER OF THE WHITE HOUSE.

4. CHRISTMAS PARTIES: CINC ASKED AND RECEIVED PRC CONCURRENCE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF NOV. 28 DEADLINE FOR GUARDIA NACIONAL APPROVAL OF CZ MILITARY-SPONSORED CHRISTMAS PARTIES FOR PANAMANIAN CHILDREN IN REPUBLIC.

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